

WHAT'S *New* in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers
in the District of Columbia*

Friday, January 6, 2006

PRELIMINARY STATISTICS SHOW A 7 PERCENT DECLINE IN SERIOUS CRIME DURING 2005

Serious crime in the District of Columbia declined by nearly 7 percent during 2005, driven in part by a strong, 11 percent reduction during December, preliminary crime statistics show. Citywide, all major crime categories declined last year with the exception of robbery, which rose by just under 6 percent. Arson (-30%), auto theft (-16%), burglary (-14%) and sexual assault (-12.5%) showed the largest percentage decreases last year. Homicides declined by three, from 198 to 195 (-1.5%). The preliminary statistics also show that serious crime declined in all seven police districts last year. The largest decrease occurred in Sixth District, which saw a 14 percent overall reduction, including a 30 percent drop in auto theft. The First District had an 8 percent reduction in serious crime last year, including a 24 percent drop in burglary. In December 2005, serious crime citywide declined by nearly 11 percent, according to the preliminary data. This included a 10 percent drop in robbery for the month; by contrast, robbery had recorded double-digit increases in each of the previous four months. The only serious crime to increase during December 2005 was theft from auto, which rose by 15 percent.

CHIEF RAMSEY ENDS "CRIME EMERGENCY," AS SPIKE IN ROBBERIES AND HOMICIDE EASES

With robberies, homicides and other serious crimes declining sharply over the past month, Chief Ramsey this week rescinded the "crime emergency" he had declared in early December. On December 3, 2005, the Chief temporarily suspended the scheduling provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreements between the MPDC and both the Fraternal Order of Police and the National Association of Government Employees (which represents many civilian employees of the MPDC). Doing so allowed commanding officers to change employees' tours of duty or days off, or extend work hours, without the prior, 14-day notice normally required under the contracts. The suspension of the agreements gave commanders the flexibility to quickly respond to changing crime trends in DC neighborhoods. The District experienced 24 homicides and 364 robberies in a 32-day period prior to the declaration of the crime emergency. During the month the crime emergency was in effect, reported robberies declined by 25 percent when compared with the 30 days immediately prior to the crime emergency, according to preliminary statistics. Homicides were reduced by more than 50 percent. In announcing the end of the latest crime emergency, Chief Ramsey said, "I want to thank everyone for all their hard work to ensure the safety of the citizens and visitors of the District of Columbia."

① View preliminary crime statistics, for each of the seven districts and DC as a whole, by going to:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543329.asp>

① Final, official crime statistics will be submitted to the FBI later this year. "Index" crime declined by 18 percent in 2004 and nearly 9 percent in 2003. Review annual crime statistics for the past 10 years at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543315.asp>

① For information on how to reduce your risk of being the victim of crime in DC, visit:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,542013.asp>

① On January 7, the MPDC's annual "holiday detail" also ends. Since December 4, close to 100 police recruits who are completing their training at the MPDC Academy were assigned to support neighborhood patrols in all seven police districts.

MPDC SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR CIVILIAN JOB VACANCIES

The MPDC is currently accepting applications for various civilian positions within the agency. Current openings include the following: a Compensation Claims Specialist in the Medical Services Section (DS-301-13), and two Data Management IT Specialists in the Office of the Chief Information Officer (DS-2210-14). The Department also continues to seek part-time Crossing Guards. The closing date for the three new positions is January 23, 2006. Salaries, tours of duty and other elements of the jobs vary. The MPDC employs several hundred civilian members, working in various administrative, technical, operational and management positions.

MPDC UPDATES MISSION STATEMENT TO REFLECT EXPANDED COUNTERTERRORISM DUTIES

The MPDC begins the new year with an updated Mission Statement designed to reflect the Department's expanded role in combating both neighborhood crime and terrorism. The updated Mission Statement reads as follows (new portions highlighted): "The mission of the Metropolitan Police Department is to prevent crime and the fear of crime, including terrorism, as we work with our partners to build safe, healthy and prepared neighborhoods throughout the District of Columbia." In announcing the changes to the Mission Statement, Chief Ramsey said, "In the four years since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, our Department has moved aggressively to address the new challenges of homeland security and counterterrorism, while continuing to meet our long-standing responsibilities of neighborhood crime fighting and community policing. The revised Mission Statement reflects this expanded focus," he said. The Chief pointed out that the actual changes in wording are not extensive, and the basic principles of the MPDC Mission Statement remain the same. "Our Department remains fully committed to the philosophy of community policing and the importance of neighborhood crime fighting. We are not taking officers out of PSA patrols in order to fight terrorism," he said. The revised Mission Statement does reinforce the fact that terrorism is a very serious crime that all members of the MPDC, as well as members of the community, must be deeply concerned with. "Combating terrorism is not an afterthought or an add-on responsibility that can be relegated to a select few members of the Department. Preventing terrorism – and doing so in partnership with the community – are fundamental to our roles as police officers and civilian employees of the MPDC," Ramsey said.

NEWS & NOTES

Inspector Burke Approved for PCB. The DC Council this week approved Mayor Williams's nomination of Inspector Patrick Burke, commanding officer of the Third District Substation, to be the MPDC's representative on the Police Complaints Board. The PCB is the governing body of the Office of Police Complaints, the city agency that receives, investigates and resolves police misconduct complaints filed by the public. For more information on the PCB, go to http://www.occr.dc.gov/occr/cwp/view,a,3,q,495435,occrNav_GID,1469,occrNav,131085|.asp

January Declared "Guns Aside" Month. The DC Council this week approved a resolution proclaiming January 2006 as "Guns Aside" month in DC. Guns Aside is proactive campaign to reduce gun violence and homicides in DC under the auspices of ROOT (Reaching Out to Others Together) Inc., and its founder and CEO Kenneth E. Barnes Sr. More information about ROOT Inc., and Guns Aside can be found at <http://www.rootinc.org>.

Martin Luther King Jr., Holiday Schedule. Administrative offices of the MPDC will be closed on Monday, January 16, 2006, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr., holiday. Neighborhood patrols and other essential functions of the Department will be staffed on that date.

- ① Details on the current vacancies, including the minimum requirements and application procedures, can be found online at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,538142.asp>
- ① The MPDC offers unpaid internship opportunities to students interested in law enforcement and related work. Details at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,556538.asp>
- ① For information about sworn career opportunities in the MPDC – including recruit and lateral-hire officers – go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,538009.asp>
- ① The updated Mission Statement is posted on the MPDC website at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,537827,mpdcNav_GID,1529,mpdcNav,|.asp

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 1/6/06
◆ 2006: 2
◆ 2005: 1
◆ % Change: +100.0%
◆ Closure Rate (2005): 62.1%
(121 closures, 195 murders)

Adult Arrests week end. 12/31/05
◆ Total: 729
◆ Weapons: 27
◆ Robbery: 10
◆ Auto Theft: 18
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 25

Juvenile Activity week end. 12/31/05
◆ Arrests: 50
◆ Curfew Violators: 49
◆ Truants: 67

Firearm Recoveries as of 12/31/05
◆ December: 182
◆ 2005 Total: 2,344

Traffic Fatalities as of 1/6/06
◆ 2005: 1
◆ 2004: 0
◆ % Change: **

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with Crimereports.com.

mpdc.dc.gov